

(Permit Renewal) Categorical Exclusion Documentation
ID-330-2008-CE-145

A. Background

BLM Office: Challis, ID 330
Permit/Lease No.: 1104036
Allotment No: 14415

Proposed Action Title: Ten year term grazing permit renewal for Authorization #114058 on the Eddy Creek Allotment, #14415.

Location of Proposed Action: Challis Field Office area, Eddy Creek Allotment, located north of the town of Challis, Idaho; Township 14 and 15 North, Range 18 and 19 east, sections 25, 26, 35, 36, 6, and 7.

Description of Proposed Action: To renew the ten year term grazing permit with the same terms and conditions as on the existing permit for Bar G Farms on the Eddy Creek Allotment.

Mandatory Terms and Conditions

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock		Grazing Period		%PL	AUM's
	Number	Kind	Begin	End		
Eddy Creek #14415	169	cattle	05/15 to 05/31		100	94
	10	horses	01/01 to 01/30		100	10

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. Grazing use under this permit will be in accordance with the 3 year schedule shown in the grazing agreement approved on 8-12-83, in the areas of use shown in the agreement.
2. Cattle use shown on line 1 is to be made for two consecutive years.
3. Horse use shown on line 2 is to be made every third year in Darling Creek Seeding pasture.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Challis Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Final, July 1999.

Option 1 (conforms with LUP): The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following Challis RMP Sections: “Cultural Resources” pps.19-21; “Fire Management”, pps.21-23; “Fisheries”, pps. 23-25; “Livestock Grazing”, pps.37-41; “Riparian Areas”, pps. 57-60; “Special Status Species”, pps.61-62; “Upland Watershed” pps. 65-66; “Visual Resources”, p. 67; “Water Quality” p. 68; and Wildlife Habitat, pps.72-76.

OR

(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP) The proposed action is on conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

C: Land Health Assessment

The allotment is meeting standards and conforming to guidelines (43 CFR 4180.2, *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for Public Lands in Idaho* (1997)). The following standards are being met or if not met livestock grazing is **not a significant factor**, or are not applicable:

Idaho Standards	Standard Met	Standard Not Met, Grazing not a Significant Factor	Standard is not Applicable
1) Watersheds	X		
2) Riparian Areas and Wetlands			
3) Stream Channel/Floodplain	X		
4) Native Plant Communities	X		
5) Seedings	X		
6) Exotic Plant Communities, other than Seedings			X
7) Water Quality	X		
8) Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals	X		

For more specific information see Assessment and Evaluation/Determination for the Eddy Creek Allotment located at the Challis Field Office.

D: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, as published in the Notice of Final Action to Adopt Revisions to the Bureau of Land Management's Procedures for Managing the NEPA Process, Chapter 11 of the Department of the Interior's Manual Part 516. Federal Register: Volume 72, Number 156 -August 14, 2007, pages 45503-45542. *“Issuance of livestock grazing permits/leases where (a) The new grazing permit/lease is consistent with the use specified on the previous permit/lease, such that (1) the same kind of livestock is grazed, (2) the active use previously authorized is not exceeded, and (3) grazing does not occur more than 14 days earlier or later than as specified on the previous permit/lease, and (b) The grazing allotment(s) has been assessed and evaluated and the Responsible Official has documented in a determination that the allotment(s) is (1) meeting land health standards, or (2) not meeting land health standards due to factors that do not include existing livestock grazing.”*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment as

documented in the following table. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply.

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		YES	NO
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		x
Rationale: The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team analysis has identified no significant impacts on public health or safety regarding this permit and the RMP has identified no Specific health or safety hazards pertaining to this allotment.			
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		x
Rationale: There are no park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); or national monuments on this allotment. There are no significant impacts to migratory birds, or other ecologically significant or critical areas as determined by the ID team analysis.			
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		x
Rationale: The ID team analysis identified no highly controversial impacts during the Standards and Guides process. The allotment was identified for cattle grazing in the RMP and is meeting all applicable Rangeland Health Standards.			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		x
Rationale: Through the Standards and Guides process, the ID team identified no highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involved unique or unknown environmental risks. Past and present management has been consistent with management guidelines.			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		x
Rationale: Regulation 43 CFR 4130.2 (c) grazing permits or leases state that grazing permits or			

leases convey no right, title, or interest held by the United States in any lands or resources; 43 CFR 4110.3 changes in permitted use; 43 CFR 4110.3(a) states “the authorized officer shall periodically review the grazing preference specified in a grazing permit or lease and make changes in the grazing preference as needed...”; 43 CFR 4130.3-3 states, “the authorized officer may modify terms and conditions of the permit...”. Therefore, the issuance of this permit does not establish any precedent for any future action with potential significant effects.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		x
<p>Rationale: The Eddy Creek Allotment falls within the Upper Salmon River Westside Watershed. This area includes 10 allotments which covers approximately 135,098 acres. Eight allotments (124,529 acres) have been assessed to date: six are meeting all standards or making significant progress toward meeting the standards and two were not meeting or making significant progress toward meeting one or more of the standards at the time of the assessment, but appropriate action has been taken to ensure significant progress toward meeting the standards. The proposed action would perpetuate the standards to continue to be achieved in this area.</p> <p>Renewal of this livestock grazing permit will authorize the continuation of an historic and ongoing activity. The Evaluation and Determination indicated conformance with all applicable rangeland health standards under current livestock management. Based on these two circumstances, and when livestock grazing is considered in context with other activities and land uses of the region, this grazing permit renewal will have no cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p>		
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		x
<p>Rationale: The allotment has been reviewed by the Challis Field Office archeologist and no properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected on this allotment.</p>		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		x
<p>Rationale: Considerations were given to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Quarterly Species List Update-Addendum (re: File #1002.0000 2008-SL-0124) which identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species (per the Endangered Species Act [ESA] of 1973, as amended) that may occur on BLM-administered lands. There is a gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) territory associated with this allotment but no denning is known to occur within the allotment. Gray wolf management responsibilities have been delegated to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (70 Federal Register, No. 4, 1286-1311); no significant impacts</p>		

are known to occur to gray wolf populations from livestock grazing. There is no designated critical habitat for terrestrial wildlife.

The current BLM-Challis GIS database (2003 data) indicates the presence of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*, threatened), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, threatened), spring/summer Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, threatened), westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*, BLM & Idaho sensitive), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, unlisted), and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*, unlisted) in Challis Creek. Challis Creek is also designated critical habitat for steelhead trout (NMFS 2005) and Chinook salmon (NMFS 1993). Westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout have been collected in Eddy Creek (USFS 2001) from above the BLM-managed Eddy Creek Allotment on USFS-managed land.

A “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination was made, with NMFS concurrence (NMFS 2000), for an area including the current Eddy Creek allotment for salmon and steelhead trout, while being grazed. The same determination was made for bull trout and concurrence received (USFWS #1-4-00-I-0005) for ongoing actions affecting bull trout in the Upper Salmon River, Pahsimeroi River to East Fork Salmon River, (BLM 2001). The current grazing management (169 cattle 05/15 – 05/31 for two years consecutive years, and on the third year, the Darling Creek Seeding is grazed by 10 horses from 1/1 to 1/30) is not expected to produce significant impacts to threatened, endangered, sensitive fish and associated designated critical habitat.

2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		x
Rationale: The prescribed management will not violate any of the above laws or requirements known to exist at the time of this analysis.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		x
Rationale: No actions in this permit would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		x
Rationale: This permit does not limit access to public lands.		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		x
Rationale: Standards and Guides analysis identified that the rangeland is in healthy condition		

and is meeting all applicable standards. Management actions prescribed in this permit will not increase the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. The existing grazing has maintained a late seral condition, met all applicable standards, and provided expected ground cover of perennial vegetation- which limits opportunities for invasive species spread and establishment.

The participation of the BLM in the Coordinated Weed Management Area (CWMA) pertaining to this allotment has been successful in keeping weed expansion under control.

This categorical exclusion review has been conducted by an interdisciplinary team (ID), which utilized all available allotment information to make a recommendation. The following are the team members:

Team Member	Title	Discipline Covered
Carren Morgan	Rangeland Management Spec.	Range
Keith J. Andrews	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Clif Tipton	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Peggy Redick	Supervisory RMS	Renewable Resources
Carol Hearne	Supervisory RMS, Archeologist	Non-renewable Resources, Archeology, Tribal
Leigh Redick	Fire Ecologist	Invasives
Kevin Lloyd	Rangeland Management Specialist	Sensitive Plants,

I have reviewed this CX documentation including the plan conformance, NEPA compliance, and the land health assessment and evaluation/determination and have determined that the proposed permit renewal is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

Rationale:

The CX is appropriate and consistent with the use specified on the previous permit such that: the same kind of livestock would be permitted, the permitted use does not exceed the active use previously authorized, and all applicable Rangeland Health Standards are being met on the Eddy Creek Allotment. The Eddy Creek Allotment has been assessed, evaluated, and the authorized officer has documented in the determination that the allotment is meeting all applicable rangeland health standards.

The current grazing management on the Eddy Creek Allotment is in compliance with the guidelines for livestock management outlined in the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management Final, August 1997*. I have determined that Standard 1 (Watersheds), Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands), Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Flood Plain), Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities), Standard 5 (Seedings), Standard 7 (Water

Quality) and Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals) are being met. Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings) does not apply.

Current grazing management practices are allowing for maintenance of or promoting significant progress toward adequate amounts of ground cover, soil conditions to support water infiltration, plant vigor, permeability rates and minimal soil compaction appropriate to site potential. Season of use allows for rest every third year allowing for properly functioning conditions and adequate vegetative cover. Healthy watersheds and native plant communities are sustaining native wildlife habitats.

F: Signature

Authorizing Official: David Rosenkrance Date: 31 May 2008
(Signature)

Name: David Rosenkrance

Title: Challis Field Office Manager

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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